

Good morning, my name is Kristie Oliver and I am the Executive Director of the Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa. Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today.

The Coalition is a statewide organization with an alliance of agencies providing the vast majority of safety net services in Iowa's 99 counties, including child welfare, juvenile justice and children's mental health.

The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) became federal law on February 9, 2018, as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. Family First is a landmark child welfare law that aligns with the principle that children do best in families.

Family First restructures how Iowa can draw down federal funding for child welfare by transforming the system and putting greater emphasis on prevention services.

As a representative for providers from across the state that touch the lives of thousands of children each year, we are enthusiastic about the possibilities with Family First.

Our excitement stems from our deep understanding and familiarity with the law itself, which is really a bill that aligns funding for children currently involved in the child welfare system and stresses the importance of implementation and decision making at the state level.

As a funding bill, Family First broadens the state's ability to draw down and utilize Title IV-E funds to prevent children involved in the child welfare system from needing to be placed outside of their home; and for those children where removal cannot be prevented, opens up the possibilities for enhancing out of home services.

- Title IV-E funds previously could be used only to help with the costs of foster care maintenance for eligible children; administrative expenses to manage the program; and training for staff, foster parents, and certain private agency staff; adoption assistance; and kinship guardianship assistance. (Today this includes kids in group care and shelter placements as well as in foster families of course). Now the state of Iowa, with an approved Title IV-E plan has the option to use these funds for prevention services that would allow "candidates for foster care" to stay with their parents or kin caregivers. Iowa could then be reimbursed at 50% for prevention services for up to 12 months.
  - Prevention Services are for those kids who are at "imminent risk" of being in out of home placements
- The Family First Prevention Services Act also seeks to shorten the lengths of stays and use of congregate care (group care and shelter care).

Providers are excited about Family First for the following reasons:

1. Increased focus and accountability for implementing Evidence Based Practices.
  - Many of our providers are implementing evidence-based practices. However, how current contracts are funded and written, providers have limitations on using the model to their fidelity. States will now be accountable to funding and

allowing evidence-based practices to be used as they were researched in intensity, frequency, and duration.

2. The bill focuses on case load sizes which will position the state to ensure better caseload sizes for their workforce and the provider workforce.
3. Children being referred to an out of home placement that is not a family foster home will be referred based on their need and providers ability to meet their needs.
4. The system will be expected to operate under Trauma Informed Principles.
  - Our provider network has been ahead of the curve in this realm. They undergo accreditation, adopt evidence-based practices, and have valued the input from families well ahead of other parts of the system.

These are just 4 quick examples of provider's enthusiasm and optimism, however, there are areas needing change. The Department of Human Services has described system change and Family First implementation as building a house.

Under Family First, as a system, we need to describe:

- (1) What we want.
- (2) How we build it
- (3) How we pay for it.

What we want – we want children to be safe from abuse and neglect and families who feel supported.

How do we build it? We must strengthen our provider community to deliver evidence-based, trauma informed care services to meet the needs of our children and families. This can be done by supporting continued growth in development of evidence-based practices. We must also address the workforce crisis facing our provider community to assure we have staff available to meet the needs of our kids.

How we pay for it? We commit to invest in the infrastructure of our "house" so we have the resources available to support the needs of Iowa's vulnerable children. This investment will cost \$10 million to support the education, training, and stabilization of the workforce to deliver evidence-based practice, consistent with the Family First Prevention Services Act.

We are fortunate to have committed team players at the Department and with our provider agencies across the state to collectively work to build the foundation for our house. The transformational change required by Family First is a shared responsibility. The Coalition is requesting an investment NOW. Providers must have the time to prepare our workforce to meet the demands of Family First, scheduled to implement in Iowa on July 1, 2020.

We believe this request represents a critical action that promotes the health and well-being of Iowa's children and families and supports the shared vision of the Iowa Department of Human Services and the Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa.

# TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPLEMENT THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

**THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FAMILY FIRST) IS A FEDERAL LAW THAT WILL FUNDAMENTALLY REDESIGN IOWA'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AND PUTS GREATER EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION TO KEEP KIDS SAFE AND FAMILIES TOGETHER.**

The members of the Coalition for Family and Children's Services are committed to helping the Department of Human Services successfully implement the requirements of Family First.

**This results in BETTER OUTCOMES FOR IOWA'S AT-RISK CHILDREN, including:**

Stronger preventative services for substance abuse, mental health, and parental skill development

Fewer children in out-of-home placement

Shorter lengths of stay in shelters and group homes

An expanded menu of options – from preventative to residential treatment – for at-risk kids



In order for Iowa to draw down Family First federal funds, private providers that contract with the state will be required to implement scientific, evidence-based practices (EBPs) to serve families. Evidence-based practices will support better outcomes for kids.

**That means Iowa must invest **NOW**. Providers must have the necessary start-up and maintenance funds and the time to prepare our workforce to meet the demands of Family First. This requires a significant fiscal commitment: \$10 million in FY2020, an additional \$10 million in FY2021, and an additional \$5 million in both FYs 2022 and 2023. Support Iowa's human services providers as we help Iowa meet its goal to strengthen families and keep children safe.**



*The Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa is an alliance of member agencies that provide direct service to children and families in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and children's mental health systems.*

**For more information, contact Kristie Oliver, Executive Director, at 515.244.0074 ext. 1**

# 2018-2019 MEMBER AGENCIES

AMERICAN HOME FINDING ASSOCIATION

HOPE HAVEN, INC.

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES OF  
NORTHWEST IOWA

MIDWEST CHRISTIAN SERVICES

BOYS TOWN OF IOWA

LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

CHILDREN & FAMILIES OF IOWA

ORCHARD PLACE

CHRISTIAN HOME ASSOCIATION -  
CHILDREN'S SQUARE, USA

QUAKERDALE FAMILY SERVICES

CLARINDA ACADEMY

SOUTHWEST IOWA FAMILY ACCESS  
CENTER

COUNSELING AND FAMILY CENTERED  
SERVICES, INC.

WOODWARD YOUTH CORPORATION -  
DBA WOODWARD, ACADEMY,  
FOREST RIDGE, AND WOODWARD  
COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

CRITTENTON CENTER

YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES & SHELTER

FAMILIES FIRST COUNSELING SERVICES

YOUTH HOMES OF MID-AMERICA

FIRST RESOURCES

YOUNG HOUSE FAMILY SERVICES

FOUNDATION 2

YSS

FOUR OAKS

YOUTH SHELTER CARE OF NORTH  
CENTRAL IOWA

HILLCREST FAMILY SERVICES



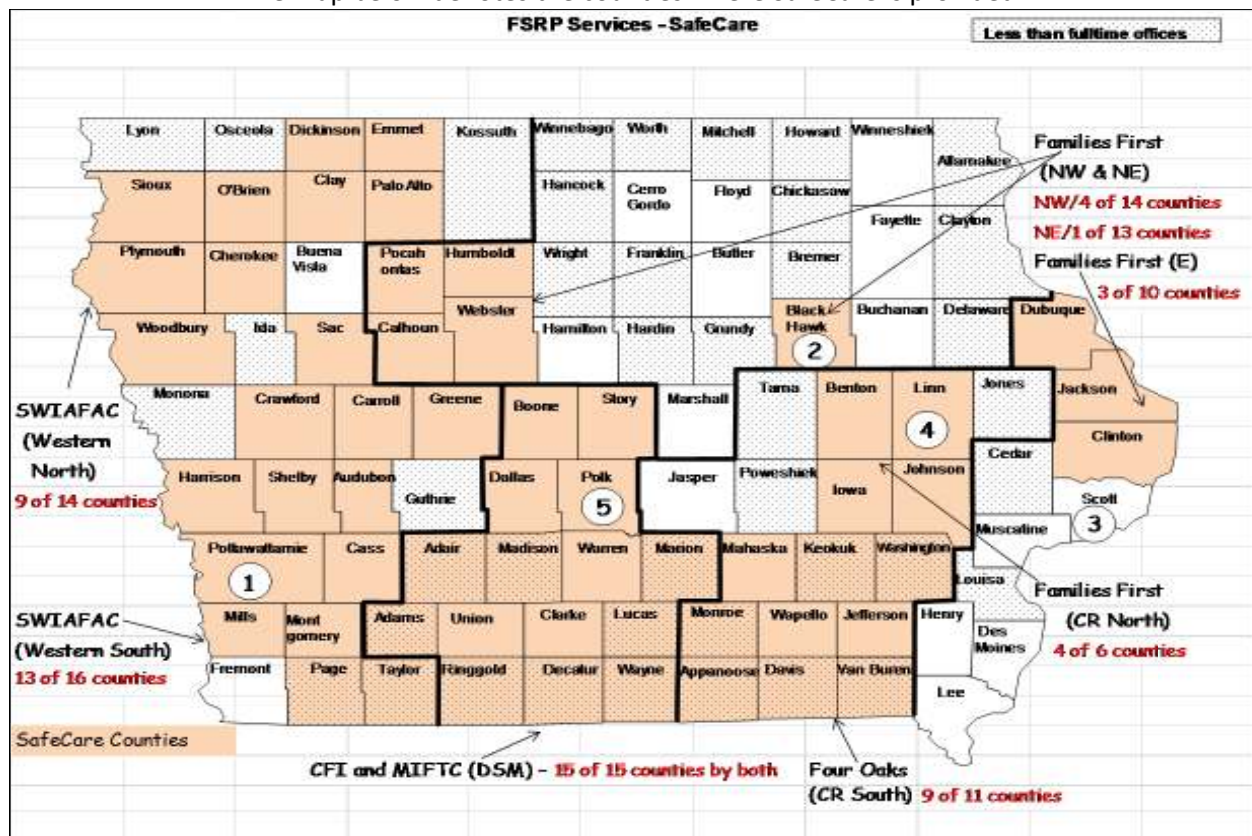
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## The Coalition for Family and Children Services in Iowa SFY 2020 Funding Request Methodology

The Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa studied SafeCare to develop the State Fiscal Year 2020 legislative funding request. SafeCare is an evidence-based behavioral parenting model currently utilized in Iowa and shown to prevent and reduce child maltreatment and improve health, development, and welfare of children ages 0-5 in at risk families. It is a home visitation-based parent training program conducted over 18 sessions. Parents who are at-risk for neglect are taught how to have positive parent child and parent-infant interactions, keep homes safe, and improve child health. This funding request will expand current evidence-based practices like SafeCare and bring in new evidenced based models to Iowa as the state implements the Family First Act.

Currently five of the eight Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency Providers have implemented SafeCare. The map below denotes the counties where SafeCare is provided.



**Why use SafeCare for financial modeling?** SafeCare has proven to be one of the more cost-efficient supported evidence-based practice.

[According to DHS RFI Answers S19-0329](#) during SFY 2018, there were 9,623 statewide Family Safety Risk and Permanency (FSRP) cases open at any point during the year.

The data reflects that of the 9,623 statewide FSRP cases, there were 5,883 cases that had at least one child five years old or younger in the household at the initiation of the FSRP Services.

According to Washington State SafeCare Fee Schedule, we calculate the following average cost per family:

Weekly sessions - \$136 per session, 22 sessions = \$2992

Case Related Activities - \$65 per hour, max of 12 hours = \$780

Travel average of 1 hour per session per family \$48.75 x 22 sessions = \$1,072.50

Concrete goods up to \$200 per family = \$200

Total = \$5,044.5

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/SafeCare-fee.pdf>

COST ANALYSIS: 5,883 x \$5,044.50 per family = \$29,676,764

In addition, we did some modeling with specific providers around training, purchasing and implementing the following evidence-based practices:

- Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW) (<https://www.fftllc.com/fft-child-welfare/>)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT) (<https://www.fftllc.com/>)
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST) (<http://www.mstservices.com/>) and
- HomeBuilders (<http://www.cebc4cw.org/program/homebuilders/detailed>),

The range of implementation was for the first year was \$1 Million - \$2.5 Million. This includes staffing and service costs.

**Why \$10 million the first year?** SafeCare, as with many Evidence-Based Practices takes 18-24 months for full implementation and sustainability. The State of Iowa plans on implementing Family First July 1, 2020. In order to draw down the federal match, 50% of the services must be well-supported evidence-based practice.

#### [Safe Care Model \(1 ½ years – 2 years to get to sustainability\)](#)

